UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.:
LIMITED

E/ECA/TCD/22
16 January 1985

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA

Addis Ababa, 12 to 14 January 1985

A. ORGANIZATION

1. The eighth meeting of the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 to 14 January 1985 under the Chairmanship of Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

B. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

2. Representatives of the following United Nations organizations and specialized agencies and African inter-governmental organizations took part in the work of the meeting: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Agence pour la securité de la navigation aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar (ASECNA), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), Port Management Association for Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA), Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern Africa, Trans-African Highway Authority (TAHA), Trans-East African Highway Authority (TEAHA), and Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa (URTNA). The following participated in the meeting as observers: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Food Programme (WFP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened by Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, who, in his opening statement emphasized the acute economic difficulties facing Africa at the present time. Indeed, he himself had presented a Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic Crisis to the mid-year session of ECOSOC in 1984 and the 20th summit of the OAU Heads of State and Government had also dealt with Africa's growing economic difficulties and decided that the 1985 summit would be basically concerned with this problem. In its turn, the 39th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations had devoted considerable attention to the matter and had adopted by consensus a declaration on the African economic and social situation.

4. It was against this background of enormous difficulties that the eighth meeting of the Committee was being held. The members of the Committee, as they considered the various items on the agenda, ought to consciously bear in mind the need to redouble efforts to provide Africa with a transport and communications network that would serve it well in times of distress.

5. Prof. Adedeji cautioned against the atmosphere of gloom resulting from the present crisis detracting attention from some of the other worthwhile endeavours commenced before the onset of the crisis. While it was undeniable that the immediate problems were drought and food self-sufficiency, sight should not be lost of the greater task of the overall improvement of Africa's economic plight, a task in which the development of adequate transport and communications services figured so prominently.

6. In reviewing the items on the agenda of the meeting, he underscored the need for other agencies to supplement ECA's report on the activities undertaken in 1984 with their account of their own activities in order to complete the picture of what was done. As regards ECA's efforts to collect data on the physical evaluation of both phase one and phase two programmes, the numerous difficulties encountered deserved close attention by the Committee so that a better way could be found of information gathering.

7. In connection with efforts to mobilize financing for the Decade programme, a meeting had been organized in June 1984 between financial institutions and African inter-governmental organizations with a view to exploring new ways of financing the programme of the second phase. The Committee would be appraised of the follow-up action taken by ECA after the meeting. The main method of mobilising financial resources still remained the technical consultative meetings and the Committee would be given a report on the outcome of those that had been held and on preparations made for the forthcoming ones. In this regard, he commended the co-operation which ECA had obtained from the agencies.

8. Finally, the Committee would have to draw up a timetable for the orderly revision of the phase two programme so that any amendments to it could be submitted to the fifth Conference of Ministers.

9. Mr. Djomatchoua Toko, speaking on behalf of the Acting Secretary General of the OAU, who was unavoidably absent, welcomed participants to the meeting.

10. He then summed up the two main activities undertaken by the OAU, collectively and individually in 1984 within the context of the Decade.

11. The first concerned the Civil Aviation training centres, OAU had hosted the seventh meeting of the OAU/AFCAC/ECA/UNDP/ICAO Co-ordinating Committee during which consideration was given to the report on activities of the Addis Ababa centre, and the problems it was facing with respect to the new international centre including future contributions of States and the strategy of future action of the Committee, that is, evaluation of the real needs of States in training, the sensitization of States to the need to sign and/or ratify the convention establishing the Addis Ababa multinational centre, the steps needed for financing the centre. A programme of action has since been drawn up.

12. He then informed the meeting of OAU's participation in the fifth and sixth meetings of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee on the Regional African Satellite Communication System which were devoted to the adoption of the report of the fourth meeting of the Committee, the organization of its bureau and the drawing up of its work programme and schedule. In conformity with this programme, OAU, as Chairman of the Committee, had organized and hosted the seventh meeting of the Committee the objective of which had been to propose solutions to its operational problems, in particular the distribution of various tasks concerning the Regional African Satellite Communication System project, drawing up of a strategy for financing the project, and revision of the terms of reference of the study.

13. The report of this latter meeting had been submitted to the extraordinary plenipotentiary inter-governmental meeting of Transport and Communications experts. Outstanding problems, such as the distribution of tasks, were dealt with during the eighth meeting of the Committee, organized and hosted by OAU. Proposals would be submitted to the next Meeting of Experts.

14. To conclude, the OAU representative expressed the wish that the work of the present meeting would at the same time make it possible to define concrete proposals on socio-economic problems of Africa to be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU.

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

15. It was decided, by consensus, that in the present and all future IACC meetings, no agencies other than ECA and OAU would make oral general statements, but could submit written statements to the ECA secretariat, to be attached to the report and consequently provisional agenda item two was deleted and the following agenda adopted:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. 1984 Report on Phase II of UNTACDA

4. Financial and physical evaluation of the UNTACDA programme
5. Report of the meeting between financial institutions and African inter-governmental organizations to explore strategies for financing the UNTACDA programme
6. Report on technical consultative meetings held in 1984 and those planned for 1985
7. Examination of the implications of resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.84/44 requesting ECA to study the prospects of a second Decade
8. Preparations for the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Transport Communications and Planning to be held in 1986
9. Date and venue of the next meeting
10. Any other business
11. Adoption of the report
12. Closure of the meeting

E. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

UNTACDA Report for 1984 (agenda item 3)

16. A representative of the secretariat introduced document DEC/TRANSCOM/IA/VIII/2 entitled "UNTACDA Report for 1984" by briefly enumerating the various United Nations and inter-governmental bodies to whom annual and biennial reports on UNTACDA are submitted including the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee and pointed out that in future only one report and a latter supplement would be prepared for all the various bodies. He gave a summary of the activities of ECA during 1984 in implementing the UNTACDA programme and particularly the evaluation of the first phase programme and the adoption of the second phase programme.

17. With respect to the second phase programme, he drew the attention of participants to documents E/ECA/TCD/16 and 17, which contain and present details of the programme and briefly referred to the work of the last meeting of the Committee from 4 to 6 January 1984 which reviewed the programme before recommending it to the Ministers. He pointed out that the $18.3 billion second phase programme approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning was a re-affirmation of Africa's collective commitment to the Decade objectives.

18. He briefly reported on the results of the fifth and sixth technical consultative meetings held in 1984 and observed that the outcome was not particularly encouraging.

19. He drew the attention of participants to section VI of the report dealing with the Regional African Satellite Communication System and the work of the special Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee set up to deal with that matter and its activities in 1985.

20. With respect to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150, he pointed out that most of the activities mandated in the resolution had been implemented and that the rest would be implemented in 1985 as stipulated in the resolution.

21. In the discussions which followed, the ECA Executive Secretary observed that the idea of a single report to various bodies was good and suggested that the meeting should agree on (a) the format, (b) inputs by agencies and organizations, and (c) the contents of the report. He suggested that the report should, among other things, indicate what member States had or were doing at the national and subregional levels as well as the activities of United Nations agencies and other organizations during the reporting period. With respect to the 1984 report, he observed that the first substantive chapter could deal with the physical implementation of the programme including activities by the governments, while the second chapter would cover regional and subregional efforts and the third chapter would deal with activities of the organizations in the countries, subregions and region. And the rest of the report could cover other activities such as technical consultative meetings, etc. In his opinion, the report was to give a synoptic view of the Decade during the reporting period.

22. The representative of OAU stressed that the general presentation of the activities should enable a determination as to whether the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action were being met in the transport and communications sectors.

23. Representatives of several organizations expressed their views on the format of the report and the modalities of its preparation. Some preferred to have in each subsector a lead agency that would co-ordinate the production of a collective input in that subsector while others thought it better that each organization should submit its contribution to ECA and that ECA should then synthesize these various submissions into one sub-sectoral report. Yet others thought that there should be sub-sectoral committees that would meet and agree on a joint report which would then be submitted to ECA.

24. As to the question of format, the view was expressed that the report ought to highlight the impact of projects that had been executed and that this could best be conveyed by graphs and charts. While this view was generally accepted, it was,

however, pointed out that there were some projects that did not lend themselves to this quantitative assessment. In this respect, it was generally accepted that there ought to be flexibility on quantitative and qualitative approaches.

25. Finally, it was the consensus of the meeting that the report should focus not only on the progress made but on the problems of implementing the Decade programme.

26. In summarizing the discussion, the Executive Secretary said that (a) there was general endorsement of a single comprehensive report, (b) the report was to be a collaborative effort of all agencies and organizations, and (c) a sectoral approach was to be adopted, progress and problems were to be highlighted in the achievement of the UNTACDA objectives. In his opinion, the report would equally serve as the report, in the fields of transport and communications, on the progress of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

27. The Executive Secretary indicated that there were several ways of going about the preparation of the report: for the general approach, information for Chapter II had to be obtained from member States by ECA, while all agencies were to be involved in Chapter III but with certain agencies co-ordinating the activities, e.g., ITU in co-operation with PATU for PANAFTEL, ECA for the trans-African highways, etc. For the sectoral approach, organizations or agencies responsible for the preparation of the various modal and sub-sectoral inputs had to be identified and that it was necessary to devote two days prior to the meeting of the Committee for all the other agencies and organizations involved to consider and finalize the modal or sub-sectoral inputs. He noted that in future the Committee meeting would be longer but that the report on the implementation of UNTACDA needed to be a collective effort.

28. Some discussion ensued on the items that should be included in the report with some participants feeling very strongly that such important regional endeavours as the Regional African Satellite Communication System project and critical problems like data on propagation should be treated separately. The need was also emphasized to reflect the impact of subregional inter-governmental organizations such as ECOWAS, PTA, SATCC, etc. A number of participants then expressed their views on the components of the chapter dealing with the key regional activities. They each proposed the inclusion of additional activities which they considered important. In the end the following outline was adopted:

Chapter

I. Introduction (overview and summary)

II. Implementation of the UNTACDA programme at national level (progress and problems)

(a) Transport

- roads and road transport
- railways and rail transport
- maritime transport
- ports
- air transport
- inland water transport
- multimodal transport

(b) Communications

- telecommunications
- broadcasting
- postal services

III. Implementation of regional, subregional and inter-State link projects

(a) Transport

(i) regional inter-State links projects (by transport mode)

(ii) projects of crucial importance to development of transport in Africa

- Trans-African highways
- Optimal development of air transport (freedoms of the air, co-ordinated network of centres for aircraft maintenance and repair, facilitation, harmonization of timetables, air navigation facilities and services, etc.)
- Transport manpower development and regional training centres in Africa

(b) Communications: projects of crucial importance to development of communications in Africa

- PANAFTEL
- Regional African satellite communication system
- Propagation data in Africa
- Communications manpower development and regional training centres in Africa

IV. Contributions of United Nations specialized agencies and African inter-governmental organizations to the implementation of UNTACDA

(a) Transport

- roads and road transport
- railways and rail transport
- maritime transport
- ports
- air transport
- inland water transport
- multimodal transport

(b) Communications

- telecommunications
- broadcasting (including mass communication)
- postal services

V. International co-operation and support for the implementation of UNTACDA

VI. Special developments and issues and problems of significance during the year

29. The Executive Secretary suggested that all inputs from agencies and organizations should reach ECA before end of February 1985 and that all members of the Committee were to meet in March 1985. He stressed that it was very important that the OAU Summit scheduled for June 1985 should receive the final report, prior to ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly.

30. Concerning the methodology of preparation of the Chapter III sectoral reports it was agreed that:

(a) ECA and the United Nations specialized agencies will ensure co-ordination and drafting of reports on co-operation with the specialized regional organizations concerned;

(b) The various specialized organizations will finalize drafting of the sectoral reports during the sectoral working group meetings which will precede the meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee;

(c) Sectoral reports prepared in this way will then be submitted to the plenary meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee and will constitute Chapter III of the Committee's annual report on UNTACDA.

Concerning Chapter IV of the report, each organization concerned will present a report on its activities, and the texts will be harmonized during the working group meetings indicated in point b above.

31. With respect to some inaccuracies in paragraph 34 of document DEC/TRANSCOM/IA/VIII/2, the OAU representative was requested to submit a corrected version.

Financial and physical evaluation of the UNTACDA programme (agenda item 4)

32. A representative of ECA presented document DEC/TRANSCOM/IA/VIII/3. He recalled that in 1983, the Economic and Social Council had requested ECA to submit to it a report on the physical and financial status of the first phase programme of the Decade. Efforts to obtain the necessary information by the usual methods of sending questionnaires to governments on a six monthly basis and involving the country Liaison Officers with ECA came up against serious problems which he briefly enumerated and analyzed. Under the circumstances, ECA adopted the solution that was somewhat extreme, which was to send one official to each of the 50 member countries to collect the necessary information. Even this solution, which was quite expensive both in terms of staff and cost, did not solve the problems. That was why ECA was proposing to resort to a system previously discussed by the Committee, namely collaboration of organizations and institutions in the collection of data in their respective areas of competence, with the help of new questionnaires drawn up by ECA.

33. All participants acknowledged the difficulties involved in obtaining information. Collaboration between ECA, inter-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies was therefore indispensable. This collaboration could be in the following ways:

(i) ECA would communicate to the other organizations and institutions the information it had been able to obtain;

(ii) ECA would, before the end of meeting, establish a list of all the countries on which it had not been able to obtain any information;

(iii) the inter-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies would send to ECA as soon as possible the information that they had.

34. This would enable ECA to undertake a preliminary physical and financial evaluation of the first phase. The report of this evaluation would be submitted to ECA Ministers and then to the Economic and Social Council after consideration in March 1985 by members of the committee.

35. Certain new proposals were made by participants:

(a) to use a data collection mechanism similar to that of the UNDP;

(b) to convene an extraordinary meeting of governmental experts, for the purpose of obtaining the required information;

(c) to plan to include in the agenda of each ordinary meeting of governmental experts, an item on the collection of data;

(d) where they existed, to ask information by all the possible channels on national development plans.

36. Finally, some Committee members exchanged views on the best method of undertaking the evaluation of the progress made. Some expressed the view that use should be made of performance indicators to determine whether the targets originally set (e.g. the target of one telephone per 100 inhabitants) were being reached. Others pointed out, however, that in some subsectors there had been no performance indicators set and therefore such a method of evaluation could not be universally applied. It has been however agreed that performance indicators should be given to the extent possible.

Report of the meeting between financial institutions and African inter-governmental organizations to explore strategies for financing the UNTACDA programme (agenda item 5)

37. In introducing document DEC/TRANSCOM/IA/VIII/4, a member of the secretariat drew attention of the meeting to the report of the meeting between financial institutions and African inter-governmental institutions (document E/ECA/TCD/21) held in Addis Ababa on 14 and 15 June 1984. He gave the objectives of the meeting and highlighted its main results with emphasis on the role and terms of reference of financial institutions, the difficulties involved in financing regional and sub-regional projects in particular, and the Decade programme in general.

38. He summarized the meeting's recommendations to ECA and the progress of follow-up activities which ECA has carried out in implementing the recommendations.

39. In the discussions that followed, several representatives made suggestions and recommendations on how to improve the quality of project preparation and presentation, including possibilities of improving the fund-raising activities for the second phase of the Decade.

40. It was suggested that recommendations to inter-governmental organizations on the improvement of second phase funding should be made along with those to ECA, and that other agencies which are involved in the development of transport in Africa such as SATCC should attend the meetings of the Committee in order to avoid duplication of effort and the risk of submitting conflicting projects. In order to improve the quality of project presentation, a clear difference should be made between national and subregional/regional projects. It was recommended that in order to assist Governments in project formulation, information on project preparation should be dissiminated to the authorities concerned, and that seminars similar to those of the World Bank be organized on project preparation.

41. It was suggested that within the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee a special committee be created and charged with the responsibility of mobilizing funds.

42. All these suggestions and recommendations were noted and would be studied for further discussion in the extraordinary meeting of the Committee in March 1985. More efforts would have to be made to win the support of financial institutions for UNTACDA projects.

Report on the Technical Consultative Meetings held in 1984 and those planned for 1985 (agenda item 6)

43. A representative of the secretariat introduced document DEC/TRANSCOM/IA/VIII/5. He pointed out that two technical consultative meetings had been held during 1984 and the third ones on air transport, had to be postponed to 1985. The documents for the meetings on railways and postal services, scheduled for September and November 1985 respectively, were under preparation.

44. The two meetings held in 1984 had been the one on roads, maritime transport and ports for the countries of North Africa, East Africa and the Indian Ocean islands held in Antananarivo and the one held in Harare which was devoted to projects of the whole region in the field of broadcasting. Funds for the meeting had been provided by the United Nations General Assembly.

45. The representative of the secretariat ended his introduction by thanking those Committee members from other organizations that had assisted during the preparation of the two meetings which had been held during 1984 and appealed for similar co-operation during the preparation of the three technical consultative meetings scheduled for 1985.

46. All the organizations that spoke in the discussion that followed confirmed that they would co-operate with ECA to ensure that the three technical consultative meetings were successful. They also requested ECA to evaluate the outcome of the meetings closely and recommend other means of mobilizing resources in the light of the experience gained from the technical consultative meetings.

47. The representatives of AFCAC and ICAO informed the meeting that their organizations were co-operating fully with ECA to ensure the success of the technical consultative meeting on air transport and that they would be discussing the organization of the meeting with the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division of ECA while in Addis Ababa.

48. The meeting on broadcasting had been particularly disappointing because the attendance by donors and African Governments had been poor in spite of all the efforts that had been made to make it successful, such as the provision of fellowships to African participants by ITU. It was therefore important to try and find out the reasons for poor attendance at these meetings.

49. This view was shared by the Executive Secretary of ECA who took the occasion to publicly express his appreciation to the Secretary General of ITU for the tremendous effort he had made for the success of that meeting. The decision whether or not to hold other meetings after 1985 would have to be made after a thorough evaluation of their effectiveness. Nevertheless, it was still important to ensure that those scheduled for 1985 were well prepared. Because the prospective host Government for the meeting on air transport had informed the secretariat very late of its inability to host the meeting, invitations had not yet been issued. In these circumstances, the time allowed to donors and Governments to decide on their participation was considered very short. ECA, ICAO and AFCAC were, therefore, requested to propose a new date for the meeting.

50. It was agreed that questions of modalities of organization of technical consultative meetings would be referred also to the special committee on mobilization of funds (as suggested in paragraph 41).

Examination of the implication of resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.84/44 requesting ECA to study the prospects of a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (agenda item 7)

51. It was unanimously decided not to proceed with examination of document DEC/TRANSCOM/IA/VIII/6 entitled "Prospects for a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa" due to the following reasons:

(a) Since the current Decade ends in 1988, it was premature to talk of a second Decade when a physical and financial evaluation of the first had not been undertaken;

(b) First, each participant should study the draft report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the Decade and give a personal opinion of it, before we respond to this resolution.

52. Thus, the examination of this agenda item was postponed to the next regular meeting of the Committee at the beginning of 1986.

53. As regards its report on the Decade, the Joint Inspection Unit would be asked not to proceed with its distribution until it had taken all the various viewpoints into account; more so, the Committee should meet before its finalization in which it should be closely involved.

Preparations for the fifth Conferende of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning (agenda item 8)

54. A representative of ECA presented document DEC/TRANSCOM/IA/VIII/7. He recalled that the fifth Conference would be held at Harare, Zimbabwe at the beginning of 1986, and that it would be preceded as usual by the fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Experts. Only the preliminary agenda of these two meetings were presented, given the considerable time gap between this meeting and the Conference of Ministers. The various items proposed were briefly discussed and emphasis was laid on amendments to the second phase programme: the ECA secretariat proposed that 30 September 1985 be set as the deadline for submission to ECA of changes desired by member States and inter-governmental organizations and/or the specialized agencies in the programme.

55. No special remarks were made on this document for the reasons that:

(a) It only concerned a preliminary presentation;

(b) The proposed agenda was no long applicable, since the organizations present at the meeting would collaborate in the preparation of a report on activities carried out in 1984 and 1985 within the context of the Decade.

Date and place of the next meeting (agenda item 9)

56. The next meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee would be held in Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 March 1985 and it would be conducted as follows:

- working group meetings 27 and 28 March;
- meeting of the Committee in plenary sessions 29 and 30 March. Objectives of these meetings are outlined in paragraph 30.

Any other matters (agenda item 10)

57. Under this item, the UNESCO representative mentioned that his organization was ready to collaborate with ITU to undertake a feasibility study on the Regional African Satellite Communication System. He said that if a financial contribution was necessary, the request should be addressed to the International Programme for Development of Communications (IPDC) before 1 July 1985. In addition, he mentioned projects already approved which are:

(a) ECA/ITU project on training elements of broadcasting in Africa;

(b) URTNA project on circulation and exchange of news and programmes by satellite.

He also said that three Decade projects would be submitted to the sixth IPDC session by the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, namely:

(a) PATU development of research in the field of communications;

(b) Regional satellite communication training centre;

(c) African advanced level telecommunications training institute.

58. The ITU representative informed the Committee that the ITU Conference of Plenipotentiaries had established an independent international commission for the development of telecommunications in 1982. This commission comprised 17 high-level personnalities in the field of telecommunications including representatives of African countries. The report on the work of this commission would be published on 22 January 1985 and extensively distributed, with a view to generating discussion at the international level.

59. Information was asked on the practical modalities of and arrangements made for:

(a) The extraordinary meeting of African Ministers of Telecommunications to take decisions on the Regional African Satellite Communication system project;

(b) The donors meeting on the Regional African Satellite Communication system.

60. As regards the proposal for the convening of a meeting with donors to consider the feasibility study on the Regional African Satellite Communication System, the ITU representative said that consultations were under way and that a meeting could be expected before the end of March 1985.

61. The following approach was proposed for the extraordinary meeting of ministers on satellite communications:

- OAU should communicate the report of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee to all members of the Committee;
- Comments on the report should reach OAU between now and the end of January 1985;
- OAU should convene a meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee as soon as possible to examine the report and comments.

62. The Secretary General of PATU informed the Committee of meetings he had held with the Minister of Transport of Guinea, who is the current Chairman of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, concerning the convening of the Conference mentioned under paragraph 61. It was agreed to request the Executive Secretary of ECA, in co-operation with the Secretary General of the OAU, to confer with the Guinean Minister about the convening of the Conference of Ministers of Telecommunications on the satellite project.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

63. The draft report was adopted after amendments.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

64. During the closing session, the Chairman congratulated participants for the quality of the work accomplished and thanked them for their unreserved co-operation.